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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
26 April 1975

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Indochina
(As of 1600 EDST)
No. 25

VIETNAM

Nearer to a New Government

1. The South Vietnamese National Assembly after hours of debate today appeared to give President Huong authority to step aside in favor of General "Big" Minh. But at the same time the vaguely worded resolution also appeared to give Huong the option to stay as head of state. If Huong chooses to take advantage of this apparent opening it could dangerously prolong the process of establishing a new government acceptable to the Communists.
2. This latter course does not appear likely, however, given the clear-cut Communist refusal to deal with a government led by Huong. Minh himself is now confident that Huong will designate him as president.
3. If the Saigon government does not decide quickly, the North Vietnamese are likely to take some strong military action to force the political process to a quick resolution. Indeed, fresh new attacks by elements of two North Vietnamese divisions late on April 26 in Bien Hoa Province southeast of Saigon may represent the opening round of such pressure. The new attacks began against the South Vietnamese armor school at Bear Cat and the North Vietnamese quickly moved to nearby Route 15 linking Vung Tau with Saigon. The attackers advanced north along the highway to a point less than five miles south of Long Binh--the major government logistics base. South Vietnamese troops have established blocking positions to halt the northward thrust, but senior regional officials are not confident the attack can be contained.

NSA
review(s)
completed.

4. A recently captured prisoner from the North Vietnamese

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has stated that his unit was briefed on April 23 that the PRG was negotiating with the GVN for a cease-fire. He was told that if those talks fail, Communist military units are in position and prepared to attack Saigon. The PRG military spokesman in Saigon also told newsmen yesterday that Communist units were ready to attack the capital.

Communists Completing Final Attack Preparations

5. There have been a number of indications that the communists will soon be ready for a major coordinated assault on Saigon and other major South Vietnamese holdings in the capital area, if they conclude such attacks are necessary. Recent deployments of additional North Vietnamese divisions on all sides of the Saigon defense perimeter [redacted]

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[redacted] have been completed. [redacted] has named the commander for the forces arrayed

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[redacted] 130-mm. guns with 2,600 rounds of ammunition have already been deployed south of the "airfield" [redacted]

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6. Communist antiaircraft artillery is also now within range of Tan Son Nhut. The crew of one US transport plane reported observing antiaircraft fire last Thursday while it was flying at an altitude of 18,000 feet over the field. This report suggests the communist now have the capability to shoot down aircraft at this range if they choose to do so.

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